

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

This week we will set aside our ongoing exploration of the attributes of White Supremacy Culture and turn to the news. The leaked early draft of a Supreme Court ruling on Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization makes it clear that Roe v. Wade is about to be overturned. Not only will this allow conservative states to illegalize abortions, it does so on a foundation that could be used to overturn Obergefell and even Loving, which legalized same sex marriage and interracial marriage, respectively.

This is White Supremacy Culture in action. Paternalism, Belief in One Right Way, Either/Or Thinking, and Individualism all come into play, with a group in power overriding the wishes of the vast majority of Americans, disregarding their beliefs and substituting the beliefs of the minority that holds power. Those people seeking abortions who have the finances to travel to a blue state will do so, but we all know the correlation between poverty and race. It's easy to see the intersectionality through which this will affect women of color far more than white women.

We are called to stand for our beliefs, just as we are called to stand for those who have been marginalized by this action. Let your voice be heard, not just here at First U, not just in the voting booths in our districts, but in those states in which a small group of white men is making life-altering decisions for all women in the US. Yes, this is about a woman's right to choose, and it's about the fact that women of color will be disproportionately harmed, but it's also a fundamental attack on our first amendment right to practice our beliefs as we see fit. If they can disregard our belief in this respect, they can do so in any other way they choose. Stand up. Fight back.

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.